



Mennonite Church Canada

600 Shaftesbury Blvd
Winnipeg MB R3P 0M4

Resource Update

January 2005, No. 1

A service of Mennonite Church Canada

Highlighting Resources for Sunday school, Family Ministry & Worship...

Need resources? We're easy to find! 1-866-888-6785 toll free 204-831-5675 fax
resources@mennonitechurch.ca www.mennonitechurch.ca/resourcecentre

Reminder: You can always check the **Resource Centre webpage** and browse our online catalogue, peruse our recent acquisitions or check out past issues of Update.

CALENDAR

We offer resources for...

December

25 Christmas

January

6 Epiphany

23 Mennonite World Fellowship Sunday

March

25 Good Friday

27 Easter

Christmas alternatives:



Christmas with a DIFFERENCE

www.mennonitechurch.ca

In lieu of traditional gift giving, we invite participants to make financial donations to *Christmas With a Difference*. Monies will go to support ministry in Macau and Colombia.

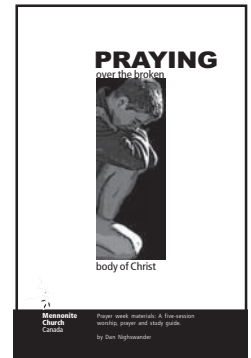
www.buynothingchristmas.org

Offers stories, studies, reflections on the real meaning of Christmas, and practical alternatives to the frenzied consumer spirit.

Prayer Week 2005

Praying Over the Broken Body of Christ, by Dan Nighswander.

Mennonite Church Canada, 2004. This year's prayer week material. Probes the struggle of a divided church toward its destiny to be "one," as Jesus intended. Describes the historical and cultural issues that divided the Corinthian church and explores the healing medicine that Paul's letter brings to the brokenness of that local "body of Christ." A prayerful study that challenges today's church to incarnate Jesus' prayer for unity so that our oneness might be invitational and missional. One complimentary copy is enclosed in this *Equipping* package. You are free to make additional copies, download a copy from our website or purchase copies from the Resource Centre for \$4.00, plus GST and shipping.



Circulate your worship materials here!

Congregations are always looking for current, tested resources from our member congregations. Email, fax or post us your copy of a special service, litany or celebration, and we'll pass it on.

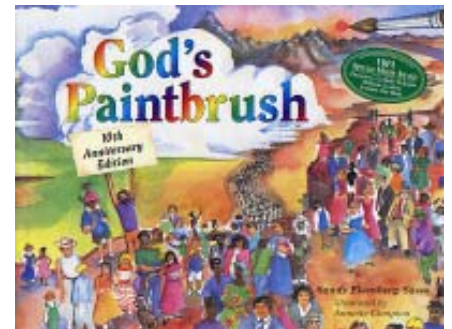
Children's Corner

Resources for the church library, home, Sunday School class or Sunday morning storyteller.

God's Paintbrush - 10th Anniversary Edition

by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso

Children often speak about God in ways that are different from adults. They ask many startling, direct questions! Oftentimes adults feel uncomfortable answering them. Through imagination (and encouraging many "wondering-type" questions), this beautiful, reflective book invites children to encounter God openly through moments in their own lives – and helps adults be a part of that encounter. New to the Resource Centre!



New Sites!

www.alternativeservice.ca

If Canada went to war, what would you do? Check out the story of Conscientious Objectors and the choices they made during WWII. Award-winning website!

www.thirdway.com/menno/lite

A brief Mennonite history for children, teachers and those new to Anabaptism.

www.ymroadtrip.org/home.htm

Youth resources from an Anabaptist perspective, including: Sunday School lessons, Bible studies, devotionals.

www.fiercegoodbye.com

Faith-based perspective on suicide, by Mennonite Media. Supplementary site to the DVD and book of the same title, available at the Resource Centre.

Worship:

www.mennonitechurch.ca/resources/sermons&worship/

Weekly children's stories for your worship service, based on the lectionary texts.

www.ambs.edu

Seasonal commentaries on the lectionary readings written by AMBS professors for worship planning and sermon preparation. Currently includes Advent/Christmas/Epiphany.

www.mennonitechurch.ca/resources/prayer

Prayer week materials for 2005 entitled *Praying Over the Broken Body of Christ*, by Dan Nighswander.

Christian Education:

www.mph.org/vbs/

Preview and order your Vacation Bible School materials for 2005. Theme: "Celebrate the Psalms."

www.mph.org

Want further information on the coming children's Sunday School curriculum? You'll find the link here to *Gather 'Round: hearing and sharing God's good news*.

Catechism Resources:

Making Disciples: Preparing People for Baptism, Christian Living, and Church Membership, by April Yamasaki. Faith and Life Resources, 2003.

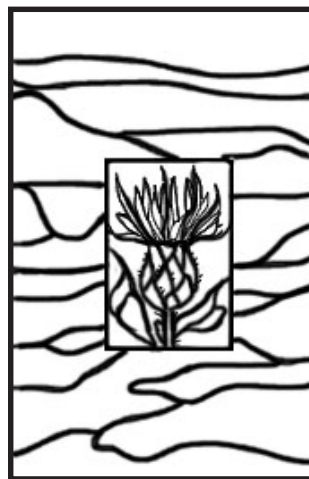
God's Story, Our Story: Exploring Christian Faith and Life, by Michele Hershberger. Faith and Life Resources, 2003.

Faith for the Journey: Youth Explore the Confession of Faith, by Ann Weber Becker. Faith and Life Resources, 1997.

Turning Toward Jesus. Mennonite Media, 1995.

Welcoming New Christians: A Guide for the Christian Initiation of Adults, by Jane Hooper Peifer and John Stahl-Wert. Faith and Life Press, 1995.

Early At-Home Lent Resource: Marvelous in our Eyes



Easter and Lent come early next year. Lent begins before our next hard-copy issue of Equipping. Therefore, look for your free copy of the At-Home Lent Resource for 2005 in this mailing.

During the season of Lent, God's children prepare for Easter by reflecting on the life and death of Christ. We prepare in ways that

remind us of God's great gift of transforming forgiveness as they strengthen our anticipation of Christ's second coming. This year's Lent materials invite us to see what God is doing in the lives of biblical characters who are transformed as they meet Jesus. Their stories challenge us to expand our vision to also see what God is doing in our own lives and communities.

This year's At-Home Lent resource culminates with a Tenebrae service and an Easter prayer that is based on material in the spring issue of *Leader*.

Use this resource whenever and however it fits into your home's routines and life stage realities. Promote it as a seasonal home worship ritual for the families of your congregation.

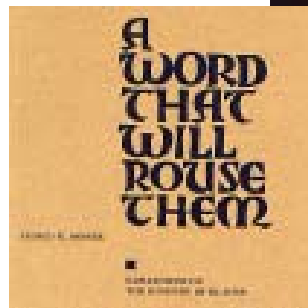
This resource can be accessed in several ways: You may make copies of the sample you received. You can also print copies off of our website at:

www.mennonitechurch.ca/resources/seasonal/lent/ or order additional copies from the Resource Centre for \$2.00/copy.

Worship

Jesus and Peter: Off the record conversations, by John Bell and Graham Maule. Wild Goose Publications, 1999. Twenty-four dramatic dialogues between Peter and Jesus. Perfect as discussion starters or scriptural reflections, in small groups, worship services and personal study.

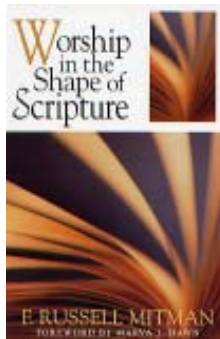
A Well-Trained Tongue: Formation in the Ministry of Reader, by Aelred Rosser. Liturgy Training Publications, 1996. Addresses the practical concerns of all those involved in reading



scripture in worship, and outlines the communication skills that make for good proclamations of

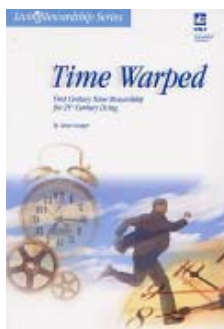
the word of God. A good accompanying book by the same author: *A Word that Will Rouse Them*.

Worship in the Shape of Scripture, by F. Russell Mitman. Pilgrim Press, 2001. The premise is that scripture has the innate capacity to shape, not only the sermon that is a part of the worship event, but also the whole of the liturgical action itself. Topics include: Releasing the Word in Worship; Engaging the Scriptures; Shaping the Event; Transposing the Texts; Orchestrating worship; Doing Liturgy. Pastors, church musicians, congregational worship committees, as well as students preparing for pastoral ministry will all benefit from this book.



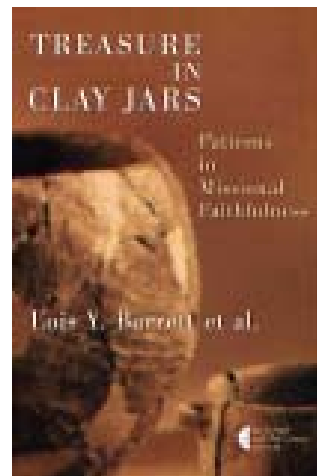
Small Group study

Time Warped: First Century Time Stewardship for 21st Century Living, by Steve Ganger. MMA, 2004. Through Bible study and a contemporary analysis, this resource addresses time and lifestyle questions. A Personal Time Plan worksheet and Time Chart are practical tools for either the individual or small group to use.



Missional Church

Treasure in Clay Jars: Patterns in Missional Faithfulness, edited by Lois Barrett. William B. Eerdmans, 2004. If you saw a missional church, what would it look like? What patterns of behavior and practice would you find there? A case-study of nine missional congregations across North America and the "patterns" common to these churches.



The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity,

by Philip Jenkins. Oxford University Press, 2002. By the year 2050 only one Christian in five will be non-Latino and white, and the centre of gravity of the Christian world will have shifted firmly to the Southern Hemisphere. The author shows that the churches that have grown most rapidly in Africa, Asia and Latin America are often far more morally conservative and apocalyptic than their northern counterparts. Mysticism, puritanism, faith-healing, exorcism, and dream visions - concepts which more liberal western churches have traded in for progressive political and social concerns - are basic to these newer churches. The author argues that the effects of these differences will be enormous.

Spirituality

Henri Nouwen: The Passion of a Wounded Healer. Gateway Films, 1996. Before Nouwen's death on October 2, 1996, a Dutch television crew and close friends accompanied him to key places in his life where he reflected on their meaning for him: Harvard University, where he gave up a prestigious teaching position; L'Arche Daybreak in Toronto, where he ministered to people with developmental disabilities; and St. Petersburg, where Henri encounters Rembrandt's "Prodigal" painting. Spoken in Dutch with easy-to-follow English subtitles. A special English supplement concludes the video: the funeral eulogy given by Henri's friend Jean Vanier, the founder of L'Arche. An intimate look into the faith and practice of a significant spiritual leader.



Devotional Classics: Selected Readings for Individuals and Groups, edited by Richard Foster and James Bryan Smith. HarperCollins, 1993. These fifty-two selections have been organized to introduce readers through the course of one year to the great devotional writers. Each is accompanied by an introduction and meditation by Richard Foster. In

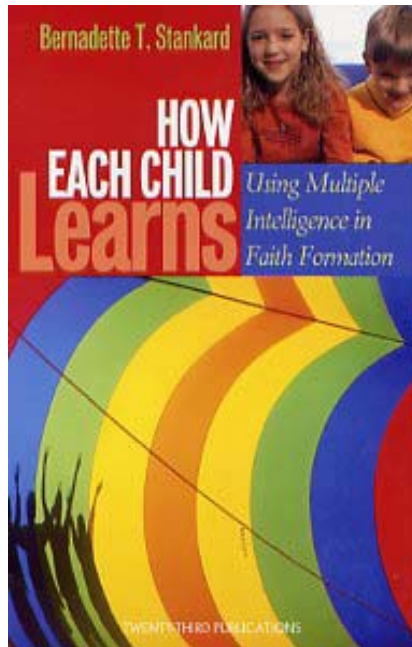
addition, each reading features a linked biblical passage, discussion questions, and individual and group exercises.

Christian Education

The Radicals Now on DVD. The story of Michael and Margaretha Sattler dramatizing the origins of the Anabaptist movement in Europe in the early 16th Century. This 2004 DVD of the award-winning 1990 theatrical film also includes a Spanish track; other teaching aids by Mennonite historian John Sharp and author Myron Augsburger; a condensed version of the story suitable for younger children; and a feature about the making of the film.

How Each Child Learns: Using Multiple Intelligence in Faith Formation, by

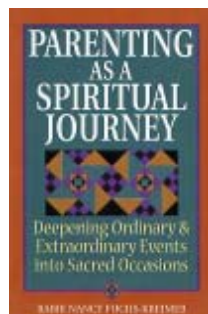
Bernadette Stankard. Twenty-Third Publications, 2003. What can you do about the boy in your religion class who is always humming a tune, or the girl who just can't sit still and loves to move around the room? How do you reach the thinker, the poet, and the artist with the basic teachings of the faith and insure that their experience of God is positive and nurturing? This lively and animated book shows how the theory of multiple intelligence (verbal-linguistic; logical-mathematical; musical-rhythmic; visual-spatial; bodily-kinesthetic; naturalist; intrapersonal; interpersonal; existential) can be used to creatively teach religion to children.



Parenting

Real Kids Real Faith: Practices for Nurturing Children's Spiritual Lives, by Karen Marie Yust. Jossey-Bass, 2004. How can parents be intentional about building a spiritual foundation for their children's development? In addition to its wealth of practical advice on how to engage children in authentic faith practice, this resource helps parents identify their own important role in a child's deepening life of faith. Chapter titles include: Creating a Spiritual World for Children to Inhabit; Telling Stories that Draw Children into a Life of Faith; Helping Children Name God's Presence in their Lives; Praying with Children; Supporting Children as they Grow in Spiritual Awareness.

Parenting as a Spiritual Journey: Deepening Ordinary and Extraordinary Events into Sacred Occasions, by Nancy Fuchs-Kreimer. Jewish Lights Publishing, 1996. A perfect gift for the new parent and a helpful guide for anyone seeking to re- envision family life. Explores the transformative spiritual adventure that all parents can experience while bringing up



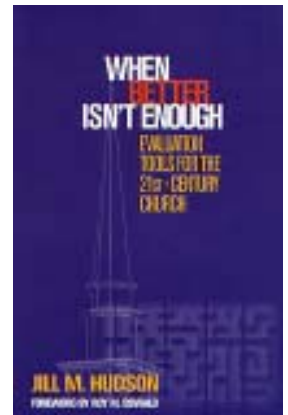
their children. Rituals, prayers, and inspiring passages from sacred religious texts are woven throughout.

Church Leadership

In Tune with God: The Art of Congregational Discernment, by Sally Weaver Glick. Herald Press, 2004. Is God calling us to start a daycare in our neighbourhood? Whom shall we call as our next pastor? May we serve communion to believers who are not yet baptized? How does our congregation describe its mission? This book helps congregations learn how to make decisions in healthy ways - focused on God's purposes, and growing in truth and love. Works best in a congregational study setting. Includes a leader's guide, an outline for a one-day retreat and a wealth of practical tips for conducting healthy discernment.

When Better Isn't Enough: Evaluation Tools for the 21st Century Church, by Jill Hudson.

Alban Institute, 2004. Approaching the postmodern era as a tremendous opportunity, the author identifies 12 characteristics by which we can measure effective ministry and offers tools to help congregations evaluate their work in this new era.



The Power of Asset Mapping: How Your Congregation Can Act on its Gifts, by Luther Snow.

Alban Institute, 2004. The author suggests that the congregation refocus on their half-full rather than half-empty realities, appreciate their own gifts and capacities and those of their neighbours, and connect these gifts to one another in creative combinations to strengthen their congregations and communities. A step-by-step guide to help transform congregational identity and practice.

Pastoral Leadership

Four Views of Youth Ministry and the Church, by Mark Senter III, Wesley Black, Chap Clark, Malan Nel. A dialogue between four youth minister's distinct philosophical and ecclesiological views regarding how youth ministry relates to the church at large: Inclusive congregational; Preparatory; Missional; Strategic. A compelling text for both in-the-field youth ministers and undergraduate students.



Listening for the Soul: Pastoral Care and Spiritual Direction, by Jean Stairs. Fortress Press, 2000. Offers pastoral caregivers a nourishing and comprehensive exploration of spiritual direction. Presents a vision of "soulful pastoral care" in faith communities. The author uses "soul listening" (meaning listening for the holy in the ordinary) and contemplative living as primary pathways to nurturing deeper relationships with God.